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Report of the
District of Columbia Delegation
of the
Proceedings
at the
First National Convention
of
The American Legion



November 10, 11 and 12, 1919
Minneapolis, Minnesota

1919

65 of 11
JAN 13 1920

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WASHINGTON, D. C.
December 5, 1919.

I respectfully submit to the comrades
of the District of Columbia Department
the accompanying report of its delegation
to the First National Convention of The
American Legion, held at Minneapolis,
Minn., November 10, 11 and 12, 1919.

E. LESTER JONES,
Chairman.

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RESPONSIBILITY

Again responsibility is looking squarely into the faces of all the members of the American Legion, and the men who are banding themselves together to preserve the ideals for which they fought, realize more and more that there must be no obscurity of purpose and no uncertainty of accomplishment in establishing the agency for the carrying out of the highest ideals in our National life, and in years to come the archives will tell the story of those who faced their responsibility in the services of the Legion.

Perhaps it is a little early to refer to the "early days" of the Legion, but we must not lose sight of the very first day, because there is today abundant proof that those who carried the idea over the top, realized and accepted the responsibility.

November 6, 1919, witnessed the starting of the District of Columbia delegates to the National Convention, and there was every evidence that they were awake to what was expected of them.

The three leading questions were, who is to be National Commander? Where the National Headquarters, and where the next convention? None of these proved ours and for a time the delegates thought the ways of men most peculiar, but they soon woke up to the fact that now, as never before, there was a work to be performed by the members of the Legion in the District of Columbia.

Their choice for National Commander did not win; it was not expected that he would, as Comrade Jones, while always active in behalf of The American Legion, was comparatively in the background and unheralded at Minneapolis, except for a small write-up in the leading Minneapolis paper on Legion Day, November 9, which stated that it was through his efforts that the first Post was formed and referred to him as the Father of The American Legion in America.

The setting given to Commander Jones in the nominating speech, made by Mr. William A. Stuart, son of a former Governor of Virginia, revealed the depth of appreciation in which he is held by those who know him in his own state. Colonel Jones remained in the running and accepted the votes cast in his favor as a mark of appreciation from the delegates and the State of Virginia, and in refusing to let Commander Jones step out of the running the District of Columbia delegates assumed, and stood by their responsibility to the man who as State Commander has a National, as well as a local prospectus. His part in the drafting of the National Constitution revealed this.

Were the delegates disappointed when they saw that the next National Convention would not come to Washington? No! Here again there was evidence that they realized their responsibility. Washington is in no sense a convention city, either in spirit or in equipment. The facilities for taking care of a National Convention are not here, and to attempt to supply such facilities, when most any of the other larger cities are in a much better position to do so, with but little extra effort, would have been, to say the least, poor judgment on the part of the District Delegation.

It must be remembered that Washington is temperamentally different from any other city in the Union, it being the Nation's Capital makes it so. The delegates remembered this.

Were the delegates disappointed when National Headquarters was lost to them? Genuinely so; and it took quite some time for them to realize and accept the loss. Were the delegates responsible for this loss? Again, no. They knew better than anyone else the pulse of the Convention in regard to this and never failed to state the just claims of Washington to become the National Headquarters of the American Legion. It was an uphill road, and no one realized it more than did the delegate whose duty it was to face the Convention and make the appeal for National Headquarters to be sent here.

Comrade Donovan could not undo in four minutes (the time allowed delegates to present their claims) the peculiar phase of antagonism produced during the period of the war; and also the accusation that if National Headquarters came to Washington, it would become a mere political playground and be presided over by whatever party happened to be in power. The delegates were constantly encountering the effect from these two, so called, causes; and each and every delegate handled the situation whenever encountered. One of the large State delegations stood solid against the District because a number of their members felt that they had been victims of the profiteering game while here.

It was interesting to see Washington so peculiarly accused by the limited vision of those who would not lay down personal resentment, and inasmuch as personal resentment lacks a just vision, it did not remember that, over night, as it were, humanity from the four corners of the globe began pouring into Washington, and demanded food, shelter and amusement. Washington staggered and groaned under the burden so suddenly thrust upon her. One of our delegates asked if the City, from which the shallow criticism came, could, or would have done better, had it found itself in a similar position.

The regret which seized the District delegates at first, was short-lived when they realized that under the circumstances, it would be better for the Legion and for Washington that National Headquarters

go elsewhere, and let time prove to the contrary minded, that Washington is the logical place for the American Legion Headquarters.

It will be a decided advantage to the District of Columbia Department to have National Headquarters elsewhere at this time. As it is, the Department of the District is free to work out its own salvation and has escaped being placed in the shadow by a large working body, and what was at first felt to be a loss, will prove to be a most valuable asset.

Comrade Harry J. Davis was nominated for one of the Vice-Commanders and received a large vote including the entire delegation from New York.

The results accomplished by the members of the District delegation in the various committees, is a matter of official record, and the resolution which caused the greatest human outburst during the entire convention, was the resolution of the District delegation, known as the Berger resolution.

As each delegate makes his or her report to the Post they represented, it will be seen how important and effective a part the different members played in this the first National Convention of the American Legion. As time goes on, those who are confronted with a similar duty and responsibility, will doubtless appreciate the work accomplished by those who were called upon to serve the Legion when it was being put over the top.

The convention is greatly indebted to the city of Minneapolis for its cordial interest and care of the delegates from every State in the Union. This City of the Middle West assumed its portion of the responsibility to make the convention a success.

The National Commander has pointed out the Legion's responsibility for the coming year, for he says "It is not hard for some to go to war when the vision of the world is centered upon the warrior in uniform. It is harder to fight the quiet and less spectacular fight for those same ideals and in the ordinary walks of life. Yet this is what the Legion proposes to do and what it will do.

The individuality of Mr. Franklin D'Olier has been felt throughout the entire organization under his leadership; the year before him will yield the results hoped for.

In the sum-total, of all the happenings, at the National Convention, surely the District of Columbia delegation need feel no hesitancy in claiming its portion of the results obtained by them at the convention. Their position was a most unique one, it could not be otherwise; they came from the District of Columbia, the Nation's Capital.

A. E. THOMPSON,
Secretary.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DELEGATION TO MINNEAPOLIS NATIONAL CONVENTION

DELEGATES

E. LESTER JONES	A. S. IMIRIE
HOWARD S. FISK	E. J. BEAULAC
KENNETH A. McRAE	OLIVER V. KESSLER
ROSE F. STOKES	CHARLES B. ROLLINS
HOPE KNICKERBOCKER	MADISON L. HILL
ANNA E. THOMPSON	JULIUS I. PEYSER
HARRY J. DAVIS	DANIEL J. DONOVAN
ALEXANDER MANN	ALFRED L. STERN
ALICE B. HARVEY	H. L. B. ATKISSON

ALTERNATES

WILLIAM G. GLENN	F. W. BOSCHEN
W. C. SMILEY	JOHN M. VANDERGRIFF
B. M. GRAFF	ANNA S. SEITZ
FRANK A. CONNOLLY	MABELLE L. MUSSER
DONALD MacGREGOR	L. CLARKSON HINES
W. M. PURVIS	T. J. BEERMAN
JOHN T. TAYLOR	GERALD EGAN
STANLEY T. BARKER	PAUL B. JOHNSON
	WM. F. FRANKLIN

E. LESTER JONES,
Chairman.

ANNA E. THOMPSON,
Secretary.

NATIONAL OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

National Commander—FRANKLIN D'OLIER, Pennsylvania.

National Vice-Commanders—ALLEN T. TUKEY, Nebraska.

JOYCE S. LEWIS, Minnesota.

JAMES O'BRIEN, California.

ALDEN R. CHAMBERS, Massachusetts.

WILLIAM B. FOLLETTE, Oregon.

National Adjutant—LEMUEL L. BOLLES, Washington.

National Chaplain—REV. FRANCIS A. KELLY, New York.

AN INSPIRING TELEGRAM FROM GENERAL PERSHING

CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION,
AMERICAN LEGION,
MINNEAPOLIS.

"ON THIS FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF ARMISTICE DAY MY BEST WISHES GO OUT TO THE DELEGATES OF THE FIRST CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION. MAY THE SAME PATRIOTISM AND DEVOTION WITH WHICH YOU WERE INSPIRED AS SOLDIERS IN THE GREAT WAR GUIDE AND DIRECT YOUR DELIBERATIONS IN THIS CONVENTION.

"PERSHING."

SILENT TRIBUTE TO FALLEN COMRADES ON ANNIVERSITY HOUR

At 11 A. M., November 11, 1919, a solemn hush fell over the American Legion Convention, which a moment before had been riotous with noisy shouting. Chairman Henry D. Lindsley addressed the convention as follows:

"Gentlemen, one year ago at this time the world was in expectancy of the cessation of hostilities in the greatest war in all history. We are approaching the moment when the world ceased that great conflict, the result being a victory for democratic peoples all over this world.

"I am going to ask every delegate here to rise and bow his head or her head in silent prayer as that moment approaches, thinking of what it has meant to the world, what it means to our country, and particularly thinking of our comrades who on the other side gave their lives not only that the world might be safe but that we as a nation might continue to live as a free people. And our hearts and our prayers should go to those who are bereaved throughout our land because these men—our comrades—went there and gave the supreme sacrifice.

"The delegates will rise."

Every delegate rose and stood with bowed head as eleven faint organ notes sounded through the auditorium. As the last echo died away the organ pealed out "The Star-Spangled Banner."

ADDRESS OF FRANKLIN D'OLIER ON ELECTION AS NATIONAL COMMANDER

"I can only repeat the few words I said before the convention in accepting the great honor of being elected the National Commander of the American Legion, and that is to the effect that we are in the American Legion for work, and not for words.

"The American Legion has an enormous amount of constructive work before it in the coming year, but the spirit of clear thinking, fair play and co-operation manifested so wonderfully throughout this convention leaves not the slightest doubt in my mind that we shall be able to accomplish during the coming year just as remarkable results for our country as we all did in such a comparatively short time in effecting the utter defeat of the enemy.

"Every action of this convention was discussed carefully and exhaustively, and in every instance the soundest possible judgment prevailed. There was only one thought in the mind of every delegate present, and that was to do what was best for this country of ours for which only so recently we were willing to give our all."

The Most Dramatic Moment of the Convention Was Marked by the Unanimous Adoption of the Resolution Demanding the Deportation of Victor L. Berger, Presented by the District of Columbia Delegation. The Resolution Follows:

WHEREAS, Victor L. Berger has been duly tried and convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude, and disloyalty to our country; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the American Legion in convention assembled hereby demands that the proper authorities take all legal steps to cancel his citizenship papers and bring about his deportation.

The first annual convention of the American Legion was held at Minneapolis, Minn., November 10, 11 and 12, 1919. It was attended by over two thousand delegates from every State in the Union, the District of Columbia, Alaska and the Hawaiian Islands, Cuba and Mexico. It was considered the most notable convention in American history. The meeting was called to order by Henry D. Lindsley, temporary chairman, who presided throughout the three-day convention.

The following was the permanent roll of the convention with voting strength:

Alabama	6	Missouri	14
Alaska	4	Montana	9
Arizona	6	Nebraska	12
Arkansas	10	Nevada	5
California	18	New Hampshire.....	10
Colorado	6	New Jersey.....	14
Connecticut	11	New Mexico.....	7
Cuba	4	New York.....	47
Delaware	6	North Carolina.....	5
District of Columbia.....	9	North Dakota.....	8
Florida	6	Ohio	45
Georgia	6	Oklahoma	9
Hawaii	4	Oregon	13
Idaho	6	Pennsylvania	50
Illinois	22	Rhode Island.....	9
Indiana	15	South Carolina.....	5
Iowa	25	South Dakota.....	10
Kansas	14	Tennessee	8
Kentucky	6	Texas	12
Louisiana	4	Utah	6
Maine	9	Virginia	9
Maryland	7	Vermont	9
Massachusetts	65	Washington	12
Mexico	4	West Virginia.....	6
Michigan	24	Wisconsin	8
Minnesota	36	Wyoming	4
Mississippi	5		

The amount of work handled at the convention was so great and its time so limited, the suggestion was approved that numerous committees be selected and the limits of their work defined in order to avoid overlapping of work. Each committee consisted of one member from each State, selected by that State's delegation. Each committee, after assembling, elected its own chairman and secretary, and each committee reported direct to the convention, purely in an

advisory capacity, the convention accepting, rejecting or modifying its recommendations.

The District of Columbia was represented on the following national committees:

Credentials—To recommend final action in voting strength accredited to each State, it is suggested that State secretaries, where possible, be placed on the committee, because by time of convention they will be thoroughly conversant with these problems because of their work on advance committee. *Representative*—Howard S. Fisk.

Rules of the Convention—Included in this committee's report might be time allowed each speaker on a resolution, method of handling resolutions, and time after which convention may decline to receive further resolutions except by consent of convention. Order of business and committee to be chosen to be included in report of advance committee. *Representative*—Julius I. Peyser.

Permanent Organization of Convention—Covering not only chairman and secretary of convention, but also all assistant secretaries, sergeants-at-arms, and any other officers of convention needed. *Representative*—H. L. B. Atkisson.

Note: The above three committees reported at the first session of the convention.

Emblem—Emblems, banners, official music, ritual and C. & C. *Representative*—Alexander Mann.

Eligibility—To write eligibility clause of Constitution and to interpret it with reference to all of the many doubtful cases pending. *Representative*—A. S. Imirie.

Auxiliaries—To recommend what auxiliaries, etc., if any, there should be, and to define their exact status by writing the necessary clause of Constitution and interpreting it carefully for all doubtful cases should they be permitted. *Representative*—Alice B. Harvey.

Political Restrictions—To recommend the exact limitation, if any, upon officers and committee members of National, State and Post organizations, with reference to their political activities to maintain absolutely the non-political character of the American Legion. If restrictions are recommended, then to write this clause of the Constitution. *Representative*—Alfred L. Stern.

Finances and National Dues—To receive financial report and to recommend and write national dues clause of the Constitution. *Representative*—E. Lester Jones.

Constitution and Organization—This committee to incorporate in its report the final decisions of the convention on the four preceding committees, viz., Eligibility, Auxiliaries, Political Restrictions, and Finance. *Representative*—E. Lester Jones.

Legislation—To recommend how the National Organization shall carry into effect the decisions of the National Convention affecting

national legislation, and to make pertinent recommendations to States regarding the promoting of appropriate legislation in their respective States. *Representative—H. L. B. Atkisson.*

*Next Meeting Place—*For National Convention in 1920. *Representative—Harry J. Davis.*

*Permanent Headquarters—*For National Organization of the American Legion. *Representative—Daniel J. Donovan.*

*Post Activities and Memorials—*To recommend to Posts how Posts may be strengthened, membership increased, etc., and also to recommend what part, if any, local Posts should take in urging memorials to their fallen comrades under their custody. *Representative—Rose F. Stokes.*

*Employment—*To recommend definite plans for handling employment for ex-service persons through National, State and Post organizations. *Representative—Kenneth A. McRae.*

*War Risk Insurance—*To recommend how ex-service persons may receive the most efficient assistance from the American Legion, National, State and Post organizations, and also to recommend what improvements in legislation and administration, if any, should be urged upon the Government. *Representative—Madison L. Hill.*

*Beneficial Legislation—*For ex-service persons: Vocational Training, Care of Disabled, Land and Home Aid, Industrial and Individual Loans, Compensation, Bonus, etc. *Representative—Kenneth A. McRae.*

*Military Policy—*To recommend what policy, if any, of adequate national defense is to be advocated by the American Legion. *Representative—Charles B. Rollins.*

*Anti-American Propaganda—*To recommend what action, if any, should be taken by the American Legion properly to combat at all times all anti-American propaganda. *Representative—E. J. Beaulac.*

*Resolutions—*To report on all resolutions submitted to convention not properly handled by above committees. *Representative—Julius I. Peyser.*

The program of the convention for November 10, 11 and 12 was as follows:

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1919

9:00 A. M.—Caucus of State delegations at State headquarters, after which they will proceed in body to convention, to arrive not later than 10 A. M.

10:00 A. M.—Convention called to order by National Chairman Henry D. Lindsley.

Nomination and election of temporary chairman of convention.

Nomination and election of temporary secretary of convention.

Invocation.

Addresses of welcome:

Hon. J. E. Meyers, Mayor of Minneapolis.

Hon. J. A. A. Burnquist, Governor of Minnesota.

Report of National Chairman.

Report of Advance Committee containing recommendations on order of business of convention.

Selection by each State delegation of its representatives on each of the following committees:

Committee on Credentials.

Committee on Rules of the Convention.

Committee on Permanent Organization of Convention.

Announcement of location of meeting places of three committees and immediate convening of the three committees.

Reports of Secretary and Treasurer.

Report of Committee on Credentials.

Report of Committee on Rules of Convention.

Report of Committee on Permanent Organization of the Convention.

Election of Permanent Officers of the Convention.

Announcement of time and meeting places for all committees.

Convention adjourned.

2:30 P. M.—Committee meetings.

8:00 P. M.—Committee meetings, and entertainment for delegates not engaged in committee meetings.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

9:00 A. M.—Convention assembles.

Reports of committees.

(Note—At 11:00 A. M. a brief ceremony to mark first anniversary of cessation of hostilities.)

2:00 P. M.—Public gathering.

9:00 P. M.—Entertainments.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

9:00 A. M.—Convention assembles.

Committee reports.

Unfinished business.

New business.

Adjournment.

The reports of the various committees as adopted by the convention follows:

CREDENTIALS

In addition to the permanent roll of the convention as outlined above, the members of the Joint National Executive Committee of thirty-four, and members of the National Executive Committee of one hundred, arising out of the Paris Caucus, and the National Executive Committee of 100 arising out of the St. Louis Caucus, were directed to be seated, with the delegation of the State in which they resided, but they had no vote unless a duly chosen member of that State delegation.

RULES OF THE CONVENTION

Roberts' Revised Rules of Order were adopted with several modifications. Nominating speeches were limited to five minutes and seconding speeches to two minutes. All resolutions offered on the floor of the convention were referred automatically to appropriate committees.

PERMANENT ORGANIZATION OF CONVENTION

H. L. B. Atkisson, of the District of Columbia, reported to the committee that the Chairman of the convention had advised that the function of the committee was to recommend convention offices and nominate persons to fill them. Henry D. Lindsley, of Texas, was nominated as temporary chairman of the convention, and John J. Sullivan, of Washington, as temporary first vice-chairman. The convention Executive Committee was constituted of one delegate from each State and Territory.

EMBLEM

The present button adopted and issued by National Headquarters was adopted as a permanent emblem of the American Legion.

A membership card was adopted, to be published and issued by National Headquarters annually, each succeeding year's issue to be of a different color of material than its predecessor.

ELIGIBILITY

Any person shall be eligible for membership in the American Legion who was regularly enlisted, drafted, inducted or commissioned, and who served on active duty in the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps of the United States at some time during the period between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, both dates inclusive, or who, being a citizens of the United States, at the time of his entry therein, served on active duty in the naval, military or air forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during the Great War; provided, that no person shall be entitled to membership (a) who, being in the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps of the United States dur-

ing said period, refused on conscientious, political, or other grounds, to subject himself to military discipline or unqualified service, or (b) who, being in such service, was separated therefrom under circumstances amounting to dishonorable discharge and has not subsequently been officially restored to an honorable status.

There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership as hereinabove provided.

AUXILIARIES

The American Legion recognized an auxiliary organization to be known as the "Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion."

Membership in the auxiliary is to be limited to the mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of the members of the American Legion, and to the mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of all men and women who were in the military or naval service of the United States between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, and died in line of duty or after honorable discharge and prior to November 11, 1920.

The auxiliary is to be governed in each department of the American Legion by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Executive Committee and thereafter approved by such department of the American Legion.

POLITICAL RESTRICTIONS

The American Legion is to be absolutely non-political and is not to be used for the dissemination of partisan principles or for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment. No candidate for or incumbent of a salaried elective public office can hold any office in The American Legion, or in any department or Post thereof.

Each member is to perform his or her full duty as a citizen according to their own conscience and understanding.

FINANCE AND NATIONAL DUES

The fiscal year of the American Legion is to begin January 1 and end December 31 of each year, and all dues are to become payable on the first day of the fiscal year. The report of the National Treasurer was approved and adopted.

The national dues of the American Legion are one dollar per capita per annum, which is to include one year's subscription to the American Legion Weekly, and to cover the operating expenses of the national headquarters.

Constitution and Organization

The work of this committee was one of the most important achievements of the convention, and to E. Lester Jones, chairman of the District of Columbia delegation, who served on this committee, is due the greatest portion of the credit in drafting the permanent constitution.

The constitution in full, as adopted by the convention, is as follows:

PREAMBLE

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred per cent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the Great War; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, State and Nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

ARTICLE I

Name

SECTION 1. The name of this organization shall be THE AMERICAN LEGION.

ARTICLE II

Nature

SECTION 1. The American Legion is a civilian organization, membership therein does not affect or increase liability for military or police service. Rank does not exist in The Legion; no member shall be addressed by his military or naval title in any convention or meeting of The Legion.

SEC. 2. The American Legion shall be absolutely non-political and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles or for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment. No candidate for or incumbent of a salaried elective public office shall hold any office in THE AMERICAN LEGION or in any Department or Post thereof.

SEC. 3. Each member shall perform his full duty as a citizen according to his own conscience and understanding.

ARTICLE III

Organization

SECTION 1. The American Legion shall be organized in departments and these in turn in Posts. There shall be one department in each State, in the District of Columbia, and in each Territory of the United States. The National Executive Committee may establish additional departments in territorial possessions of the United States and in foreign countries.

ARTICLE IV

Eligibility

SECTION 1. Any person shall be eligible for membership in the American Legion who was regularly enlisted, drafted, inducted or commissioned, and who served on active duty in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States at some time during the period between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, both dates inclusive, or who, being a citizen of the United States, at the time of his entry therein, served on active duty in the naval, military or air forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during the Great War; provided, that no person shall be entitled to membership (a) who, being in the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps of the United States during said period, refused on conscientious, political, or other grounds, to subject himself to military discipline or unqualified service, or (b) who, being in such service, was separated therefrom under circumstances amounting to dishonorable discharge and has not subsequently been officially restored to an honorable status.

SEC. 2. There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership as hereinabove provided.

ARTICLE V.

SECTION 1. The legislative body of the Legion shall be the National Convention, to be held annually at a time and place to be fixed by the preceding National Convention.

SEC. 2. In the National Convention each department shall be entitled to five delegates and one additional delegate for each thousand members whose current dues have been received by the National Treasurer thirty days prior to the meeting of said convention; and to one alternate for each delegate. The delegates shall be chosen at departmental conventions to be held not less than two weeks before the National Convention.

SEC. 3. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. The vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of the delegates present from his department. Alternates shall have all the privileges of delegates except that of voting.

SEC. 4. A quorum shall exist at a National Convention when sixty per cent of the departments are represented, as provided above.

ARTICLE VI

National Officers

SECTION 1. The National Convention shall elect a National Commander and five National Vice-Commanders. No two Vice-Commanders shall be chosen from the same department, and no more than three from those who served in the Army. These officers shall be members of the National Convention and of the National Executive Committee, and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively, of both bodies. A Vice-Commander shall, on request of the National Commander, act as chairman of either of said bodies.

SEC. 2. The National Convention shall also elect a National Chaplain.

SEC. 3. Such officers shall serve until the adjournment of the succeeding National Convention and, thereafter, until their successors are chosen. Vacancies in these offices occurring between National Conventions shall be filled by the National Executive Committee.

SEC. 4. The National Commander shall appoint a National Adjutant. The Executive Committee shall appoint a National Treasurer and such officials and standing committees as may be necessary, and shall authorize or approve all expenditures. All appointed officers shall hold office at the pleasure of the appointing power, and all persons having the custody of funds shall give adequate bonds.

ARTICLE VII

National Executive Committee

SECTION 1. Between National Conventions, the administrative power shall be invested in the National Executive Committee, which shall be composed of the National Commander and Vice-Commander in office, and of one representative and one alternate from each department to be elected as such department shall determine; provided, that in 1919 the delegates to the National Convention shall elect the Executive Committee man and alternate from their respective departments.

SEC. 2. The Executive Committee shall meet at the place of the National Convention within twenty-four hours after the final adjournment of the National Convention, and thereafter at the call of the National Commander. The National Commander shall call a meeting upon the written request of fifteen or more members of said Executive Committee.

SEC. 3. Seven members shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII

Department Organization

SECTION 1. Departments shall be chartered by the National Executive Committee and shall be composed of the Posts within

their respective areas. Each department charter shall be signed by the National Commander and National Adjutant.

SEC. 2. Each department shall have a department commander, a department adjutant, a department executive committee, and such other officers as the department shall determine.

ARTICLE IX

SECTION 1. Those who desire to form a Post shall make application for a charter to the commander of the department in which they reside. The charter shall be issued by the National Commander and National Adjutant upon receipt of the application properly executed by the charter members of the projected post, but only when such application is approved by the commander of the department, or by the department executive committee. Post charters shall be countersigned by the commander and the adjutant of the department.

SEC. 2. The minimum membership of a post shall be determined by the executive committee of the department in whose area it lies.

SEC. 3. Each department may prescribe the constitution of its posts. Post charters may be revoked by the department executive committee with the approval of the National Executive Committee.

SEC. 4. No post shall be named after any living person.

ARTICLE X

Finance

SECTION 1. The revenue of the American Legion shall be derived from annual membership dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the National Executive Committee.

SEC. 2. The amount of such annual dues shall be determined by each National Convention for the ensuing year.

SEC. 3. The annual dues shall be collected by each post and transmitted through the department to the National Treasurer.

ARTICLE XI

Discipline

SECTION 1. The National Executive Committee, after notice and a hearing, may suspend or revoke the charter of a department which violates this Constitution, or which fails adequately to discipline any of its posts for any such violation, and may provide for the government and administration of such department during such suspension, or upon such revocation.

ARTICLE XII

Change of Residence

SECTION 1. Any member in good standing in a Post removing from his department, shall be entitled to a certificate from his post stating his membership and the duration thereof.

ARTICLE XIII

Auxiliaries

SECTION 1. The American Legion recognizes an auxiliary organization to be known as the "Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion."

SEC. 2. Membership in the auxiliary shall be limited to the mothers, wives, daughters, and sisters of the members of the American Legion, and to the mothers, wives, daughters, and sisters of all men and women who were in the military or naval service of the United States between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, and died in line of duty, or after honorable discharge and prior to November 11, 1920.

SEC. 3. The auxiliary shall be governed in each department of the American Legion by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Executive Committee and thereafter approved by such department of the American Legion.

ARTICLE XIV

Ratification

SECTION 1. All acts performed and charters heretofore granted by the temporary organization of the American Legion are hereby ratified and confirmed.

ARTICLE XV

Amendments

SECTION 1. This Constitution may be amended at any National Convention by the vote of two-thirds of the total authorized representation thereat; provided, that the proposed amendment shall have been read at such convention at least twenty-four hours before the vote thereon.

NATIONAL INCORPORATION

This Constitution is adopted conformably to the Act of Congress of the United States of America, of date September 16, 1919.

LEGISLATION

The National Commander was authorized to appoint a committee on legislation, whose duty it shall be to represent the American Legion in Washington, D. C. Each State organization will be directed to appoint a legislative committee. The activities and accomplishments of the legislative committee since the St. Louis caucus were approved by the convention. The work of this committee included the securing from Congress an act incorporating the American Legion as a national corporation, which became a law on September 16, 1919.

NEXT MEETING PLACE

The convention chose Cleveland, Ohio, unanimously, as the next convention meeting place, the date selected being September 27, 1920, this city having received 511 votes to 165 for San Francisco.

PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS

The convention chose Indianapolis, Ind., as the permanent headquarters of the American Legion. In the committee Minneapolis received seventeen votes and Indianapolis sixteen votes. The fight was continued on the floor of the convention the next day, the following cities being nominated: Indianapolis, Washington, D. C., Minneapolis, Kansas City, Detroit, and Wheeling, W. Va. A roll call vote was taken, resulting as follows: Washington, D. C., 282; Indianapolis, 226; Minneapolis, 88; Kansas City, 49; and Detroit, 39. The last three cities were eliminated and a new ballot taken, resulting in Indianapolis receiving 361 and Washington 323. A four-minute address was made by Daniel J. Donovan, the District of Columbia delegation, on behalf of the National Capital.

POST ACTIVITIES AND MEMORIALS

Posts were urged to keep the preamble of the American Legion before its members, as it tells them what the organization stands for. The question of post activities was left to the various local posts, with the proviso that matters of policy affecting the American Legion be passed on by the State or National organization.

May 30, of each year, was designated as the American Legion Memorial Day, and the consideration of a National Memorial to the American dead on French soil is to be reported at the next annual convention. Each State is to individually determine itself the nature, form and construction to be used in memorials erected to their fallen comrades.

EMPLOYMENT

The American Legion, each State organization, each local post, and each individual member was urged to co-operate in every way possible with the service and information branch in the office and agency they maintain to provide for the adequate handling of employment for discharged service men and that all civilian clerks or employes of the Government be ex-service men who have secured an honorable discharge; also that each post assume the responsibility and see that no member of a post is unemployed.

The convention declared its belief that in making or providing for appointment to a position in Civil Service, National and State governments, by legislative or other appropriate action, preference should be given over candidates otherwise equally qualified to veterans of the world war and to the widows of those who laid down their lives in

the service; also that the Civil Service Commission should be authorized and directed to provide in the regulations governing all civil service tests, special recognition to patriotism, discipline and similar military virtues, and that, in the rating of candidates, a certain percentage be allowed to all veterans. The convention also went on record that the veterans, who through wounds or otherwise, have been permanently incapacitated by their military service, should have absolute preference for appointment to any civil service position for which their physical disability does not otherwise disqualify them.

The convention condemned the hiring or continuance in service in the quartermaster depots and Navy commissary stores, of men who are not ex-service men, and urged that ex-service men be employed exclusively in these positions.

WAR RISK INSURANCE

The committee took as its charter the following mandate of the convention:

"To recommend how ex-service persons may receive the most efficient assistance from the American Legion, the National, State and Post organizations, and also to recommend what improvements in legislation and administration, if any, should be urged upon the Government.

The committee submitted three classes of recommendations:

First. What Congress shall do.

Second. What the American Legion shall do.

Third. What the War Risk Bureau shall do.

1. What Congress Shall Do:

1. Pass the Sweet Bill (H. R. 8778).

This bill, passed by the House and pending in the Senate, provides increased compensation for disabled men, extends the classes of persons to whom insurance may be payable, including the insured's estate, provides payment of converted insurance in a lump sum, or installments covering three years or more at the option of the insured.

2. Pass the Wason Bill (H. R. 10365).

This bill gives the Bureau of War Risk Insurance authority (a) to establish fourteen regional offices, (b) to advertise in newspapers and periodicals, in order to acquaint all with their rights under the War Risk Act, (c) to receive payment of premiums through postoffices, and appropriates \$2,000,000 for these purposes.

3. We recommend that Congress do not pass the Harding-McCullough Bill.

This bill provides that for two years after discharge ex-service men be not required to pay insurance premiums.

This bill was deemed in effect a bonus, which, if it is to be given by Congress, should be done directly and not indirectly, and not in a manner destructive of one of the purposes of the War Risk Act.

4. As new legislation it was recommended that Congress pass laws to attain the following objects:

(a) To extend the principles of the Sweet Bill so that TERM insurance, as well as CONVERTED insurance, shall be payable at option in a lump sum.

(b) To eliminate all restrictions as to the class of permitted beneficiaries.

(c) Relieve from payment of premiums on term insurance those persons who are receiving hospital care under the Bureau of War Risk Insurance; those persons in Vocational Training during the period of their training; and those persons temporarily totally disabled, retroactive to October 6, 1917; also to provide, without charge, hospital and medical care for all honorably discharged service men for one year from the date of their discharge.

(d) To combine the Federal Board for Vocational Training with the Compensation Division of the War Risk Bureau.

Congress and the Secretary of the Treasury will be requested to make an actuarial ascertainment of the true cost of war risk insurance, as determined by experience, to the end that rates be revised to actual mortality cost.

II. *What the American Legion Shall Do:*

Launch an active campaign to obtain at once for ex-service men and their dependent relatives, the benefits of the War Risk Act, and to that end, that there be provided by each State organization of the Legion, a War Risk Officer, paid if possible, who shall immediately organize his State through the local posts, in order to bring about prompt adjustments and settlements with the War Risk Bureau, and that this campaign be given co-operation by the American Legion publication; and further, that there be furnished to these officers and each of the Legion Posts, the address of which shall be furnished by the bureau, copies of all publications, informative literature, rulings and instructions issued by the War Risk Bureau.

III. *What the Bureau of War Risk Shall Do:*

Employ more ex-service men at the bureau; give prompter attention to inquiries directed to the bureau; and GET BUSY.

BENEFICIAL LEGISLATION

The full report of this committee is as follows:

First—That we memorialize Congress and urge that the appropriation of all necessary funds to properly carry on the work of the Federal Board for Vocational Education, as needed by the board, be made promptly.

Second.—The committee recommends that the immediate passage of Bill H. R. 8778, known as the Sweet Bill, be urged upon Congress, amending, however, the compensation features so as to include the

same family allowance as authorized in Section 204, of the War Risk Act.

Third.—Requests that Congress be urged to grant authority to the Bureau of War Risk Insurance to establish fourteen regional offices, and to urge upon all Government agencies having to do with discharged service men, the necessity for having all of their offices under one roof.

Fourth.—Recommend to Congress the enactment of legislation making sufficient appropriation to provide adequate hospital and sanatorium facilities for the care and treatment of all persons discharged from the military and naval service of the United States, and to provide medical and surgical treatment to any of the persons mentioned above, irrespective of the service origin or aggravation of their disability, for one year subsequent to the passage of the act, this in addition to the medical and surgical treatment now provided by law.

Fifth.—Request that all disabled ex-service men and women of the military and naval service of the United States be permitted to go to the best hospitals, that they may be treated by their own physicians if they so desire.

Sixth.—Recommend that the following bill, or some similar bill, looking to the reimbursement by the Government of all disabled men for the loans which they necessarily obtain from the Red Cross and other welfare organizations for their support while waiting for their assignment for vocational training or education.

Resolutions for an Act of Congress to provide for disabled soldiers between the time of discharge and entrance upon training.

WHEREAS, the immensity of this task, the large number of individuals to be provided for, the detail and consideration of manifold problems involved in the proper performance thereof, renders it physically impossible to consummate the duties imposed by statute and a high devotion to the disabled soldiers, at a rate of speed sufficient to provide a compensation or rehabilitation for them without unavoidable delays and an interval between the time of discharge and the time of receipt of first pay check for a course of training for rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, this has necessitated and will necessitate for some time to come, the borrowing of money from private or semi-public co-operating organizations, or becoming dependent on family or other relatives for such period as is necessitated for the care of and provision for those entitled by priority of discharge to the prior services of the several Governmental agencies; so, therefore, be it unanimously

Resolved by the American Legion, in convention assembled, that it is the duty of Congress to provide, and Congress is hereby respectfully requested and urged to provide by law with the least possible delay, the following:

A special payment of \$75 per month to be paid to officers, marines, soldiers and sailors disabled by tuberculosis, and a special payment of \$50 per month to be paid to other disabled officers, soldiers, sailors and marines of the United States Army and Navy, who served during the periods specified in the War Risk Insurance Act and the Vocational Rehabilitation Act, and who have been, or may be discharged from the United States military or naval hospitals, with an honorable discharge showing a disability, or who shall develop a disability traceable to their service and apply for compensation within three months.

Said bonus of \$75 and \$50 per month, respectively, is to be automatically due from date of discharge, and shall be paid by the War Department or Navy Department out of special funds which Congress is asked to appropriate for that purpose, and shall be paid continuously from time of discharge until award of compensation or entrance upon a course of training for rehabilitation.

Provided, however, that when an award of compensation shall have been made as provided in H. R. 8778, commonly known as the Sweet Bill, the sums so paid shall be deducted from the amount of arrears of compensation awarded, unless the compensation awarded be less than the sum so paid, in which case no refund shall be required of the amount in excess of said arrears of compensation awarded, and provided further, that if no award of compensation be made before the disabled soldier enters upon a course of training, only such sum of arrears of compensation shall be paid to said soldier as such award may be in excess of the bonus paid for the period between discharge and entrance upon his course of training.

Seventh.—Recommend that the American Legion continue its cooperation with the Federal Board for Vocational Education, Bureau of War Risk Insurance, and Public Health Service, to protect ex-service men in their rights under the provisions of the various acts administered by said agencies, thereby dispelling, so far as possible, any bad impressions that may have resulted from unwarranted newspaper criticisms.

Eighth.—Recommend that the provisions of Section 3, of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act, be extended so as to include all disabled persons.

Ninth.—That paragraph 2, Section 2, of Senate Resolution No. 4557, the Vocational Rehabilitation Act, as amended by Senate Resolution No. 1213, approved July 11, 1919, be amended to read as follows:

The board shall have the power, and it shall be its duty, to furnish the persons included in this section suitable courses of vocational rehabilitation, to be prescribed and provided by the board; and every person electing to follow such a course of vocational rehabilitation shall, while following the same, be paid monthly by the said board

from the appropriation hereinafter provided, such sum as in the judgment of the said board is necessary for his maintenance and support of persons depending upon him, if any; provided, however, that in no event shall the sum so paid such person while pursuing such course be less than \$100 per month for a single man without dependents, for a man with dependents \$120 per month, plus the several sums prescribed as family allowances under Section 204, of Article 2, of the War Risk Insurance Act.

Be it further provided that we recommend the enactment of legislation which will permit or enable the Federal Board for Vocational Education to pay the necessary traveling expenses of an applicant and his dependents while he may be performing necessary travel in connection with his course of training, and while traveling under orders of the said Federal Board.

Tenth.—That a resolution regarding equality of disability pay to all officers and enlisted personnel of the Army, Navy or Marine Corps, where the disability was occasioned incident to service in the war with the Central Powers of Europe, be enacted, to-wit:

WHEREAS; the officers and enlisted personnel entering the army from civil life during the recent war bore the same risks, the same responsibilities and burdens under identical conditions as officers and enlisted men of the Regular Army, and,

WHEREAS; National Guard, National Army and Reserve Corps officers have been discharged on disabilities ranging from ten per cent to total, which means that they receive, after discharge, only from \$3.00 to \$30.00 per month, while a Regular Army officer, if he is unfit for active duty, is retired on three-fourths of his pay, with additional accounts for commutation of heat, light and quarters, and,

WHEREAS, the present laws and regulations constitute an unjust discrimination in favor of a certain class of our military forces, viz., the Regular Army, and this discrimination being in principle un-American and unworthy the practice of a great democracy;

Be It Resolved, by this National Convention of the American Legion, that the existing laws and regulations do unjustly and unwisely discriminate in favor of persons whose interests were no greater, and whose service was of no greater benefit to the nation, and that such discrimination has a tendency to place the several branches of our military system on a different status, thereby causing friction and injustice, and,

Be It Further Resolved, That this National Convention of the American Legion heartily endorses the resolution on this subject adopted by the St. Louis Caucus of the Legion, and we again request the Congress of the United States to amend the present laws so as to place all disabled officers and enlisted personnel on the same basis as to retirement for their disability, whether they happened to serve

in the Regular Army, the National Guard, the National Army, or the Reserve Corps.

Eleventh.—That it is the opinion of the American Legion that in administration of the compensation features of the War Risk Insurance Act, the greatest liberality should be shown in determining the ratings, and that in case of question as to the rights to compensation, or as to the amount of compensation, the disabled soldier be given the benefit of any doubt that may arise.

Twelfth.—That legislation be enacted providing that if any person who has been eligible, and who has received the benefits of the War Risk Vocational Rehabilitation Act, or any other act for the relief of disabled service men or women, shall suffer the recurrence of the disease or other disability resulting from military or naval service, such person shall again become automatically eligible to all the provisions of such acts without the formalities now required, to the end that speedy relief may be extended to such person and that all tubercular persons shall be considered totally and permanently disabled while undergoing treatment.

Thirteenth.—That the following legislation affecting former service persons securing educational courses be enacted, such legislation known as that Kahn Resolution, H. J. Resolution 78:

That in the interpretation and execution of Section 42, of the Act of Congress, approved June 3, 1916, and Section 50, of said act, as amended by Joint Resolution of Congress of September 8, 1916, credit shall be given as for service in the junior or senior division of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, to any member of those divisions for any period or periods of training during which such members shall have been in active service in the Army of the United States, or shall have received intensive training under the supervision of the War Department, or shall have pursued a course of military training in any organization authorized by any law of the United States, the amount of such credit to be determined by regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of War.

Fourteenth.—That the National Legislative Committee of the American Legion be empowered and directed to investigate all complaints of irregularities and injustices suffered by disabled service men and women in the administration of the War Risk, Vocational Rehabilitation, and other beneficial acts, and to urge legislation to remedy the same insofar as such legislation may need be covered in this report, and is not inconsistent with anything herein contained.

Land Development and Home Aid Legislation

Fifteenth.—WHEREAS, the American Legion, in National Convention assembled, has before it a number of bills purporting to be of

benefit to those persons who served honorably in the military and naval forces of the United States, and,

WHEREAS, none of the proposed bills makes adequate provision for the needs of the proposed beneficiaries, and,

WHEREAS, delay would be most disastrous, therefore,

Be It Resolved, that we request the immediate enactment of a law to be known as the American Legion Home Founding Act, embodying the following features:

1. Reclamation of unproductive lands by direct Government operation for settlement by service men and women.

2. Reclamation and development of rural communities by loans of Government credit for settlement of such communities by service men and women.

3. Direct loans to service men and women for the purchase and development of farms.

4. Direct loans to service men and women for the purchase of city homes, and,

Be It Further Resolved,

1. That the administration of the same be decentralized.

2. That no heavy financial restriction be imposed.

3. That the right of eminent domain be incorporated to prevent speculation.

4. That the provision of such act shall be administered by former service men, and,

Be It Further Resolved, that a committee of five be appointed by the National Executive Committee to be known as the Committee on Land and Home Aid, to secure this needed legislation.

Adjusted Compensation

Sixteenth.—WHEREAS, the question of adjustment of compensation or extra pay for service men and women is now pending before the Congress, and before acting thereon the Congress has shown the disposition to await the view of this convention upon the subject, therefore,

Be It Resolved: That while the American Legion was not founded for the purpose of promoting legislation in its selfish interest, yet it recognized that our Government has an obligation to all service men and women to relieve the financial disadvantages incidental to their military service—an obligation second only to that of caring for the disabled and for the widows and orphans of those who sacrificed their lives, and one already acknowledged by our Allies—but the American Legion feels that it cannot ask for legislation in its selfish interest, and leaves, with confidence, to the Congress the discharge of this obligation.

Seventeenth.—The committee desires to record its thanks to the disabled service men and the representatives of various organizations

who have given the committee the benefit of their advice and information upon the subjects before it.

MILITARY POLICY

The following resolutions on military policy were adopted:

1. That a large standing army is uneconomic and un-American. National safety with freedom from militarism is best assured by a National citizen army based on the democratic and American principles of the quality of obligation and opportunity for all.

2. We favor a policy of universal military training, and that the administration of such policy shall be removed from the complete control of any exclusively military organization or caste.

3. We are strongly opposed to compulsory military *service* in time of peace.

4. We have had a bitter experience in the cost of unpreparedness for national defense, and the lack of proper training on the part of officers and men, and we realize the necessity of an immediate revision of our military system and a thorough housecleaning of the inefficient officers and methods of our entire military establishment.

We favor a national military system based on universal military obligation, to include a relatively small regular army and a citizen army capable of rapid expansion sufficient to meet any national emergency, on a plan which will provide competitive and progressive training for all officers, both of the regular army and of the citizen forces.

We believe that such military system should be subject to civil authority.

Any legislation tending toward an enlarged and stronger military caste we unqualifiedly condemn.

5. The National Citizen Army, which should and must be the chief reliance of this country in time of war, should be officered by men from its own ranks, and administered by a general staff on which citizen soldier, officers, and regular army officers shall serve in equal number.

6. We favor the continuance of training camps for the training and education of officers to serve in case of national requirement.

7. The National Citizen Army should be organized into corps, divisions, and smaller units composed in each case of officers and men who come from the same State or locality, and preserving local designations as far as practicable.

8. The National Citizen Army should be trained, equipped, officered and assigned to different units, before rather than after the announcement of hostilities.

9. The selection and training of men for the National Citizen Army should be under the local control and administration of its own officers, subject to general national regulations.

10. That a committee of seven be appointed by the Executive Committee of the American Legion to consult with and advise the Military Committee of both Houses of Congress as to the working out of the details of organization and training of the future army and navy of the United States, using as its basis the resolutions accepted and adopted by this convention.

ANTI- AMERICAN PROPAGANDA

The American Legion believes that the privilege of American citizenship should be granted solely upon the basis of fitness for that status, such fitness to include adaptability to American ideals, social and political, American civilization, form of government, and standard of living.

It Was Resolved by the American Legion, in convention assembled, that,

We urge upon Congress a revision of the immigration policy of the United States, based upon the revelations of the war, as to the adaptability of alien races for American citizenship, and particularly in view of the fact that a policy of peaceful penetration is being carried on by alien races in certain sections of the United States.

Upholding the right of this nation to determine its own citizenship, without any alien race having cause for grievance over its exclusion from unrestricted immigration, the American Legion calls the especial attention of Congress to the conditions regarding alien penetration prevailing on the Pacific Slope, in the Territory of Hawaii, and the Philippine Islands.

To meet these conditions:

1. The American Legion demands immediate action for the abrogation of the so-called "gentlemen's agreement" with Japan, now being continually violated especially by the admission of the so-called "picture brides," and the exclusion of Japanese from the United States on the same principle already adopted in the case of other Oriental races.

2. The American Legion demands confirmation and legalization of the policy that foreign-born Japanese shall be forever barred from American citizenship.

3. The American Legion demands that Congress prepare an amendment to Section 1, of the XIV Amendment of the Federal Constitution to the effect that no child born in the United States after the date such amendment becomes effective, of foreign parentage, shall be eligible to citizenship in the United States unless both parents were so eligible at that time.

4. The American Legion requests Congress to send sub-committees of the Committees on Immigration of both Houses, to the Pacific Slope, the Territory of Hawaii and the Philippine Islands, in order

that they may stand united in making the intelligent representation along the lines named.

Resolution Forming a Commission of the American Legion to Foster and Perpetuate a 100 Per Cent Americanism

We recommend the establishment of a National American Commission of the American Legion, which shall be the endeavor to realize in the United States the basic ideal of 100 Per Cent Americanism through the planning, establishment, and conduct of a program of a national educational system designed to: 1. Combat all anti-American tendencies, activities and propaganda. 2. Work for the education of immigrants, prospective Americans, and alien residents in the principles of Americanism. 3. Instillate the ideals of Americanism in the nation population, particularly the youth. American principle that the interests of all the people are above those of any special interest or any so-called class or section of the people. 4. Spread throughout the people of the nation information as to the policies and principles of American Government. 5. Foster the teaching of Americanism in all schools.

For the purpose stated the commission is to submit to the National Executive Committee a plan, and from time to time supplementary plans, which may include a national advertising campaign, the publication of literature, the organization of lectures, cooperation with schools and other agencies, and such other means of carrying out the purpose outlined as may be appropriate.

Upon the approval by the National Executive Committee the commission is to proceed upon the approved activities.

No funds are to be used for this purpose, except those specifically appropriated by the Legion or its properly constituted authorities for the appropriation of funds, or which shall be raised with the approval of the National Executive Committee from members of the Legion only.

The commission may recommend a system of co-operating committees or officers in State branches or posts.

The commission shall be elected by the National Executive Committee immediately after this convention, and shall consist of not over fifteen members, who shall hold office for one year, or until the next National Executive Committee to employ such officers or staff as shall be approved by that committee.

The Committee Further Recommends, that, as the preliminary organization and planning of the commission will take time, that meanwhile the local posts of the American Legion be urged to organize immediately for the purpose of meeting the insidious propaganda of Bolshevism, I. W. W.ism, radicalism, and all other anti-Americanisms by taking up the problem of:

1. Detecting anti-American activities everywhere and seizing every opportunity everywhere to speak plainly and openly for 100 per cent Americanism and for nothing less.

2. Making direct appeals to legal authority to take such lawful steps as may be necessary to correct local conditions everywhere.

3. Making every member of each local post a constructive force for the upbuilding of a vital knowledge of the principles of the Constitution of the United States and of the processes of law and order obtaining under that Constitution.

4. Showing to every person contaminated by un-American prejudice, that the welfare of all the people is really the best interest of any class, and that government must be conceived in terms of all the people and not for the benefit of relatively small classes.

WHEREAS, One of the primary purposes of the American Legion is to disseminate the principles of true Americanism, and to that end to advise and encourage everything that will tend to secure a positive nationalism and a love and respect of flag and country.

Be It Resolved, that it is the sense of this organization now assembled in convention, and legislation to that effect is recommended, that every public and private school in the United States be required to devote at least ten minutes of each school day to patriotic exercises, and that the American flag be kept raised over every such school during every school day, weather permitting; and that the American flag be displayed at all political meetings and public gatherings.

WHEREAS, the Territory of Hawaii is a vital outpost of American civilization in the Pacific, and,

WHEREAS, the citizens of that territory have always been pioneers in the furthering of the ideals of civilization upon which the American Government is founded and have more than met every call in men, service and money made upon them in the defense of Americanism and civilization, and,

WHEREAS, they are now carrying the almost staggering burden of Americanizing a population of which a great proportion is alien, and

WHEREAS, the American Legion of Hawaii is dedicating its energies, with other agencies, to this task.

Therefore Be It Resolved by the American Legion, in convention assembled, that the Legion pledges itself to give all possible aid to the Hawaii branch in this work;

And that the Congress of the United States is urged to extend every assistance possible to the citizens of Hawaii in meeting this Americanization problem by educational and other means, and by the encouragement of the settlement in Hawaii of Americans, or of peoples whose loyalty to the United States and whose assimilability in an American community is certain.

Resolved, that we, the American Legion, in convention assembled, demand that the Government of the United States proceed forthwith and immediately deport all aliens who have already been tried, convicted or interned as enemies of our Government, and that all other aliens who are advocating the overthrow of our Government by force and violence, be tried and, if possible, convicted and deported; that in the event the present laws of the United States are not sufficient to cover this situation, that Congress pass such laws as will enable our law-enforcing officials to rid our country of this scum who hate our God, our country, our flag, and who prate of their privileges and refuse to perform their duties.

Be It Further Resolved, that Congress pass such laws which will effectually punish Americans who have become so lost to common decency and patriotism that they are actually assisting aliens to bring about disorder and revolution in our country, and if such Americans be naturalized citizens, that their citizenship be revoked and they be deported.

Be It Further Resolved, that we recommend a course in citizenship constitute a part of the curriculum of every school in this country, and that all our schools be thrown open to aliens for night courses and all other persons who care to take advantage of same.

The spirit of this resolution is the Americanization of America, and we feel if the above demands and recommendations are followed, the next generation will see this country rid of the underisable element now present in its citizenship, foreign colonies a thing of the past, the spirit of true Americanism prevailing throughout the length and breadth of our country, and our ideals of Government secure.

WHEREAS, there exists in this country, at the present time, various organizations and isms, whose ultimate aim is the destruction of the principles of law, order and true democracy, and,

WHEREAS, these organizations are all known and closely watched by the Department of Justice, and it is said that this department has at the present time in its possession a great mass of facts and evidence regarding these activities, especially those of the so-called parlor socialist and Bolsheviki, which our organization considers by far the most dangerous, for they, under a mask of respectability, insidiously inject infamous teachings into the minds and thoughts of our citizens, therefore be it

Resolved, that the President of these United States is respectfully petitioned to take such steps as are necessary to change the Department of Justice from a passive evidence-collecting organization to a militant and active group of workers, whose findings shall be forcefully acted upon by this, our American Government.

Enforcement of Sentences of Persons Convicted of Violations of the Draft Law and Other Laws Relating to the Military and Naval Preparation of the United States

In view of the fact that there has been an appeal of considerable strength brought to bear upon the authorities of this country by a seditious element, which is prejudicial to the best interests of true Americanism, and of the established customs and institutions, that certain prisoners of a political character be released, and that as these prisoners strove to defeat the draft law, the mobilization of American forces, the successful prosecution of the war, and other measures contributing to our national defense, it was

Resolved, that the American Legion, in annual convention assembled, does hereby urge upon Congress that adequate measures be taken to prevent the release of this class of prisoners from confinement, that there be no mitigation of their sentences, that where possible they be deported upon the expiration of their sentences, and that most stringent steps be taken in every dealing with them to show to this and future generations that there is no home in America for sedition, and that the United States is a land of honor that can brook neither treachery nor traitors.

A Resolution Providing for the Deportation of the Alien Slacker

During the period of the participation by the United States in the Great War, many aliens who had already taken steps to become United States citizens, experienced a change of heart, and renounced their intention of becoming citizens.

This action on the part of aliens proved that they had no sincere intention in the first instance of becoming citizens, and in their application for their first papers were guided by improper motives, and were guilty of imposition and fraud upon our naturalization laws. It was therefore,

Resolved by the American Legion in national convention assembled, that we demand of Congress the passage of laws providing for the deportation of aliens guilty of the fraud and imposition aforesaid to the countries of their origin.

Providing for Publishing Names of Alien Slackers

WHEREAS, during the period of the participation by the United States in the Great War, many aliens who had already taken steps to become citizens, of the United States, experienced a change of heart and renounced their intention of becoming citizens, and expressed a desire to remain citizens or subjects of the lands of their origin,

AND WHEREAS, it is vital to our welfare that these men who deserted the country which gave them refuge in her hour of need should never again have the opportunity of imposing upon our naturalization laws by expressing intentions which they have no sincere purpose to fulfill,

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the American Legion, in national convention assembled, that we demand of Congress the passage of laws requiring the Bureau of Naturalization to compile a list of such aliens, giving their names and addresses, to print a sufficient number of such lists, to file a copy of such list as a public court record in every court in the United States authorized by law to grant naturalization, and requiring every such alien, under suitable penalties, to notify the Bureau of Naturalization and the court of the county in which he resides, of every change in his place of residence, which change the bureau shall transmit to all courts in the United States aforesaid for their information and guidance in preventing imposition.

Providing for Legislation to Prevent Aliens Who Were Exempted from Military Service Becoming Citizens

During the period of the participation by the United States in the Great War, many aliens claimed, and were granted, exemption from the selective service law on the ground of alienage.

These aliens sought and obtained the benefits of our laws and institutions while renouncing any obligation to defend the same, thereby proving themselves undesirable and unworthy to become citizens of the country for which we fought and for which our comrades gave their lives.

It Was, Therefore, Resolved, that we demand of the Congress the passage of laws which shall effectively and forever make it impossible for these aliens to acquire citizenship,

And Be it Further Resolved, that we demand of Congress the passage of laws requiring the Bureau of Naturalization to compile a list of said aliens, with the assistance of the War Department, that said list be published, and that a copy thereof be deposited as a public document with the clerk of every United States court in this country.

A Resolution Demanding That the Congress of the United States Adopt Adequate Legislation to Prevent Any Personal Organization to Carry On Propaganda Inimical to the Interests of the United States

There are in the United States a large number of men and women who are endeavoring to overthrow the Government of the United States.

There is apparently not now in the statutes of the United States adequate legislation to prevent any person, organization, association, or society, foreign or domestic, from carrying on meetings and issuing printed and verbal propaganda inimical to the interests of the United States and organized Government.

It Was Resolved by the American Legion in national convention assembled, that Congress take immediate action to enact legislation to prevent any person or persons, organizations or societies, within the United States from carrying on any verbal, written, or printed intercourse, or correspondence with any other person or persons either citizens or aliens, with the intent either peaceably or by violence, to overthrow the Government of the United States,

It Was Further Resolved, that the American Legion urge upon Congress the necessity for severe penalties for violation of any act or acts which may be enacted in connection with these matters, and that aliens found guilty of violation of any act or acts of this character, be summarily deported after sentence expires.

Resolution on Education

WHEREAS, it is the belief of the American Legion that a speaking and reading knowledge of the American language is essential to the proper conception of the principles of our Government, and of American institutions, and that much of the dangerous radicalism now existent in this country has originated, and is fostered by persons of our non-American speaking population, it is

Resolved, 1. That all the youth of this country should have an elementary education in the fundamentals necessary for citizenship, and particularly in the language of the United States, and that Congress be requested, during the present session, to pass such acts as will require the basis of all instruction in elementary public and private schools to be the American language.

2. That the Congress of the United States be urged to enact such laws as will require aliens resident in this country to acquire a knowledge of the American language.

Resolution Regarding the Anti-American Propaganda Aided and Abetted by Actions of the War Department In Its Handling of Conscientious Objectors

WHEREAS, the War Department, ignoring the resolutions passed by the National Caucus of the American Legion, has permitted conscientious objectors who had been legally tried and convicted for disobedience of all orders and of treachery, by a court of competent jurisdiction, to be pardoned, restored to duty, and honorably discharged with all back pay and allowance, and a new outfit, and,

WHEREAS, this conduct on the part of the War Department not

only has brought shame and discredit to the men who fought to protect this Government, but has served to aid and abet and encourage the marked growth of anti-American propaganda from radicals, Bolsheviks, and anarchists, who are the avowed enemies of our Government, and,

WHEREAS, the members of the War Department, though manifesting great diligence in punishing the defenders of our country for the slightest infraction of military discipline, yet persist in showing such anxiety for the safety and welfare of conscientious objectors, many of whom were naught but enemies of this country, hiding behind the cloak of religion,

Therefore Be It Resolved, that we, the American Legion, in national convention assembled, do hereby request that Congress shall speedily and thoroughly investigate the release of the aforesaid conscientious objectors and direct the War Department to recall honorable discharges granted this class of men, and be it further

Resolved, that we demand that Congress shall at once enact such laws as may be necessary to prevent ever again, enemies of this country hiding behind a religious cloak, to be honored by this country when deserving nothing but disgrace, and be it further,

Resolved, that we request of Congress the enactment at once of such laws as may be necessary to promptly punish the conscientious objectors of the past World War, who are American citizens, and speedily deport from this country conscientious objectors who are aliens, and that the officials of the War Department responsible for such tender treatment accorded the conscientious objectors be summarily dealt with, be those officials high or low, and be it further,

Resolved, that we hereby announce to the world that the American Legion considers the action of the War Department, in this matter, as one of the first counts in spreading and encouraging anti-American propaganda.

Resolution in Opposition to the Premiscuous Organization of Societies Ostensibly for the Relief of the Civil Population of Enemy Countries

The American Legion viewed with apprehension the tendency of enemy sympathizers to organize societies ostensibly for the purpose of affording relief to the civilian population of enemy countries,

It Was Resolved, that such relief as may be furnished to the civilian population of countries now, or lately our enemies, be extended solely through the media of agencies incorporated by the Congress of the United States, or through agencies authorized for such purpose by Congress.

WHEREAS, certain publications in foreign language published, or distributed in the United States, are used by anarchists and revolu-

tionists to preach destruction of American institutions and the Government of the United States.

Be It Resolved, that it is the consensus of opinion of the American Legion, in convention assembled, that all foreign language newspapers, magazines, periodicals and pamphlets published or distributed in the United States, be required to furnish a true and correct translation, properly sworn to, of all articles, together with the true and correct address of the author of every article so published, which tend to condemn our form of government, and which are of a political nature, and that five copies of said translation be left with the postmaster in the place of publication, and if published abroad, with the Postmaster General of the United States, such copies to be open to public inspection, and that suitable penalties be provided by law for violation of the requirement.

Amended:

That the translation of any such article be published in parallel column, under oath as to its accuracy, with severe penalty. (Passed as amended).

RESOLUTIONS

A large number of resolutions were presented by the committee on resolutions, which included the following:

I

1. *Be It Resolved*, that the American Legion records its appreciation of the loyal, intelligent, and disinterested services rendered the Legion by its retiring chairman, Colonel Henry D. Lindsley; and

2. *Be It Further Resolved*, that the title of Past National Commander, as provided for in the Constitution, be, and are hereby conferred upon the present chairman on and after the adjournment of this convention, and,

3. *Be It Further Resolved*, that the Executive Committee be, and is hereby instructed, to select and present annually to each retiring National Commander, a suitable insignia symbolic of the ideals and purposes of the American Legion.

II

1. *The Following Resolution* was passed by the American Legion Convention in appreciation of the memorial certificates to be issued by the French government to all survivors of those men who died in the service of the United States during the World War.

2. *Resolved*, that the American Legion accepts with sincerest appreciation, the touching task given it by the Republic of France, and that this convention directs its president to convey its thanks in behalf of the American people for this most appealing tribute.

III

Be It Resolved, that the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the American Legion be instructed to write a suitable letter of appreciation to the mother of the boy who carried the first American flag over the top. (Mrs. Thompson, Westfield, N. J.).

IV

Be It Resolved by the American Legion, in convention assembled, that we extend most deep appreciation and loyal thanks to the press and all papers, magazines, and publicity committees who have so graciously assisted the American Legion.

V

1. *Resolved*, that it be the sense of the American Legion that the bodies of the American dead be not returned from France, except in cases where the parents or next of kin desire that the Government return them, and that the United States of America, in co-operation with the government and the people of France, establish and maintain cemeteries for the American dead that remain in France or other foreign countries, to the end that the graves of those who made the supreme sacrifice may be maintained as permanent memorials of America's unselfish service to humanity.

2. *Resolved*, that the National Executive Committee be authorized to take the subject of a memorial in France under consideration, with full powers, after due study, to determine the most appropriate and fitting form of the memorial, to select a site with the sanction of the foreign authorities, and to organize a movement to raise, by popular subscription, at a fitting time, the funds needed to build a memorial worthy of our dead comrades.

VI

1. *Resolved*, that the American Legion pledges its members heartily to support the Government's Thrift Savings and Investment Campaign, and urges its local posts to provide a Government Savings Committee, to promote savings among members, and directs the National Officers of the American Legion to take such action as is necessary to promote Government savings throughout the organization, and,

2. *Resolved Further*, that the American Legion calls upon the American people to support the after-war financial program of the Government as unanimously and effectively as they did the war loans, which proved to the world the financial power of organized democracy.

VII

Resolved, that the American Legion heartily commends the principles and achievements of the Boy Scouts, and recommends that each

post assist the Scout troops in its community, in whatever manner practicable.

VIII

Resolved, that the National Executive Committee be directed to urge emphatic legislation upon the subject of slackers, as follows:

First.—The finding and punishment of the slacker.

Second.—The withholding of naturalization papers from all those who cancelled their first papers to evade military service, and their deportation.

Third.—The punishment of those who aided and abetted slackers.

IX

1. WHEREAS, during the Great War, members of the Reserve Nurse Army Corps worked hand in hand with those of the medical profession, assuming full responsibility for their particular duties in cooperation with them, sharing equally in danger and discomfort;

Resolved, that the American Legion use its efforts to further the passage of a bill for absolute rank for nurses, with opportunity for promotion, and that similar provision be made for the nurses of the United States Navy.

X

Resolved, that the National Executive Committee is empowered to make suitable provisions for the collection of war photographs, equipment, and such other paraphernalia of war as would preserve our knowledge of the Great War for all time.

XI

Resolved, that the National Executive Committee be instructed to lend their efforts to secure the approval of Congressional action which will provide the necessary rifles, cartridges, bayonets, and scabbards, and other equipment necessary for use at military funerals by the various posts of the American Legion.

XII

1. WHEREAS, the constitution of the American Legion, adopted at St. Louis, in its preamble declares that the Legion's purpose among other things, is "to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, State and the Nation;" and,

2. WHEREAS, the need of a constructive peace-time program in every American community, lays upon all members of the Legion a genuine responsibility;

3. *Therefore Be It Resolved*, that a special committee of five be appointed by the National Executive Committee to draw up a report on the purposes and methods of social organization and community service proposed by non-community, non-political, and non-sectarian organizations, said report to serve as the basis for recommendations

covering local and State-wide activities, which may legitimately come within the purpose of the American Legion, make the Legion a power in every community and serve to "Foster and perpetuate a one hundred per cent Americanism," to which as an organization we are pledged.

XIII

1. WHEREAS, an incorporated association known as "Carry-On Association" has been formed to furnish additional aid to that furnished by the Government to crippled soldiers, sailors and marines, and such association is now furnishing such aid with the endorsement of the United States officials in charge of such matters, as the exclusive agency for the housing of men during their vocational training, by means of "Carry-On Clubs" which have been established or will be established, throughout the country, in which said crippled and disabled soldiers, sailors and marines are given lodging, food, such medical and dental service as are not supplied by the Government, and, if necessary, clothing, transportation, etc., at considerably less than cost;

2. *Resolved*, The American Legion endorses and thanks the "Carry-On Association," and encourages the local Posts to co-operate with this association in its efforts to aid the crippled and wounded until the United States Government can properly take care of them;

3. *Resolved Further*, That a department of the Government be immediately instituted to care for injured disabled service men, inasmuch as work of this nation should not be left indefinitely in the hands of private individuals or charitable organizations.

XIV

1. WHEREAS, the women of the United States who gave their sons and husbands to the great cause of humanity, and were left with a gold star as their only recognition for sacrifice; therefore be it

2. *Resolved*, That the American Legion in convention assembled offer their sympathy and service wherever called upon by a gold-star woman.

XV

Resolved, That the American Legion request the honor and privilege of participating in the memorial services of the G. A. R. and Confederate veterans, while they still live, and, after death, to be the agency which shall continue these services so that their graves and the graves of all other American soldiers shall be fittingly preserved and the memory of their deeds be perpetuated upon the tablets of love and memory, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Commanders of the G. A. R. and Confederate veterans.

XVI

Resolved, That this convention place on the records of its proceedings an expression of its appreciation of the very cordial and warm reception given to it by the State of Minnesota and the city of Minneapolis, and that it extend a rising vote of gratitude to the Minneapolis Convention Committee, the American Legion of Minnesota and the mothers, wives, and daughters who have left a lasting impression upon the visiting delegates for their warm hospitality.

XVII

Resolved, That the American Legion condemn any attempt at this time to resume relationship with German activities, and lends its influences against the resumption of German opera, instruction of German in the schools, public performances of German and Austrian performers, and any other act which tends to minimize the German guild.

XVIII

1. WHEREAS, the welfare of the widows and children of our deceased comrades should be a matter of concern to every member of the American Legion; therefore, be it

2. *Resolved*, By the American Legion in convention assembled, that the Posts and all members of the American Legion charge themselves with the duty of searching for such persons in their community and extending to them such care and assistance as may be within their power.

XIX

1. WHEREAS, the American Legion, as an organization of Veterans of the World War, may best serve its purpose and most efficiently and practically pursue its policies through community or geographic units; therefore, be it

2. *Resolved*, That a ruling be made eliminating, in the future, Posts of any other class and confining organization to community Posts; and

3. *Resolved Further*, That the State organization be requested to endeavor, in so far as possible, to effect combinations or unions of already established unit Posts with others organized on the present regular and recommended basis.

XX

Resolved, That the American Legion in convention assembled calls upon the Congress and the Secretaries of War, Navy and Treasury to see to it that the business of the Finance Office be dispatched with reasonable promptness and that a clerical force of such number and efficiency be granted that office immediately as will remedy the present deplorable condition.

XXI

1. *Resolved*, That the American Legion in national convention assembled hereby denounces the so-called liberty of action which permits aliens in this country to publicly denounce or unfavorably criticize our principles or our form of government without restraint, and favors such State and national legislation as will prohibit such conduct; and be it

2. *Further Resolved*, That copies of these resolutions be furnished individual members of the State legislatures throughout the Union and individual members of Congress through the State and national organization of the American Legion.

XXII

Resolved, That the Chief Executive of the American Legion be paid a salary of six thousand dollars (\$6,000) per year and his actual traveling and living expenses while away from home in the discharge of his duties.

XXIII

Be It Resolved, That the American Legion in convention assembled deplores and condemns strikes on the part of policemen, firemen and all employes of the nation, States and municipalities, to whom are committed the protection of life, order and law, and who have taken a solemn oath to maintain and uphold law and order for the whole people. We condemn all forms of anarchy and Bolshevism and will attack the red flag wherever it may be raised, as the symbol of disorder, riot and anarchy.

XXIV

1. WHEREAS, disturbed conditions growing out of the World War are apparent in various countries, and these conditions have appeared in the United States through the activities of persons of undemocratic tendencies; and

2. WHEREAS, the manufacturing, business, labor and social interests of our country have been disorganized thereby;

3. *Resolved*, That the American Legion calls the attention of all parties to these controversies to these rights of the people as a whole to demand a lasting settlement of all disputes now interrupting the peaceful pursuits of the nation; and be it

4. *Further Resolved*, That the American Legion calls on men of all classes who have their country and its interests at heart to bury their troubles, get together for humanity's sake, and put their shoulders to the wheel of production, for the betterment of the interest of our whole people.

This is the earnest appeal of your patriotic sons to all Americans who truly represent the American spirit and seek universal happiness and prosperity. We represent potentially 4,800,000 men who were in the service in this Great War; therefore, this is no light resolution,

but a first appeal of great hearts for fair and square dealing on the part of all concerned. If they do not act fairly, squarely and sensibly, the same spirit that led us to take up the fight for righteousness and humanity on the battlefield will lead us to exercise all the powers within us to solve the situation and to save our country.

XXV

1. WHEREAS, the present widespread disorder among our large alien population is largely the result of seditious conduct of paid and skilled alien agitators, unmindful of the hospitality of the country in which they are temporarily sojourning; therefore, be it

2. *Resolved*, By the American Legion in convention assembled, that it heartily approves the action of the President of the United States in directing the arrest and deportation of alien agitators.

XXVI

Resolved, That the American Legion recommends that American Indians who honorably served in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States during the World War be given the full rights of citizenship, provided they did not evade or attempt to evade full and complete performance of such service because of conscientious objections or otherwise.

XXVII

Resolved, That those alien enemies who were interned and died during the World War, and who were interred in national cemeteries, be removed from such cemeteries and be given proper burial elsewhere.

XXVIII

Resolved, In order to expedite the business of the next annual convention, that the National Secretary is instructed to request in the call for the convention that all delegates thereto whose State conventions have adopted resolutions to be presented to the next annual convention, or who intend to present resolutions for themselves, prepare the same in triplicate, each resolution be on a separate sheet of paper and dealing with but one subject, and to be in typewriting, if possible, and to mail such resolutions to the National Secretary at least two weeks before the date of the convention, so that the National Secretary may attach appropriate titles thereto and classify them for the prompt consideration of the appropriate committees of the next annual convention.

XXIX

Resolved, That the American Legion urges immediate revision of the Articles of War and court-martial laws of the United States.

XXX

1. WHEREAS, anarchistic and un-American groups in the United States have incited riots and disorder in many of our communities and have already wantonly murdered our comrades and fellow citizens:

2. *Be It Resolved*, That the American Legion, fully recognizing its obligations to the community, State and Nation, urges its members as individual citizens to promptly, fearlessly and effectively assist the constituted legal authorities in the maintenance of law and order and the suppression of riots and mob violence.

Officers for the ensuing year were elected, at the conclusion of which the convention adjourned, at 9:30 P. M., Wednesday, November 12, 1919.



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